MONTEREY NEWS

July 2008
VOLUME XXXVIII · Number 7

The Town

Green Matters

The Select Board received a letter dated May 15 stating that Monterey has earned $2775 in Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Clean Energy Choice matching grants, valid for one year. This grant is paid for through the National Grid GreenUp program. Monterey will continue to earn Clean Energy Choice grants every month that residents and businesses participate, and grants will grow as participation levels increase. Grants can be used for solar panels, solar powered trash compactors, clean energy educational materials, teacher training, and community outreach. They can also be used for building improvement projects that combine renewable energy efficiency. For instance, when a town accumulates $15,000 in Clean Energy Choice grants, it can cover 100 percent of the costs of a small photovoltaic installation.

The Select Board is seeking a volunteer from the town to work with the board to supervise the spending of these funds. This volunteer would look at the CET website, determine a list of approved projects and their costs, and work with the Select Board to make sure the proper letters and documentation are presented to CET. This would be an ongoing project.

Farmers Sally and Steve Pullen of Greenhaven Farm deliver just-picked produce to Chef Nancy Lee of the Tea Room at the Monterey General Store. Food miles equal 0.1. No wonder Nancy's food is so good!

Anyone interested should contact Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe for a meeting with the Select Board.

The Select Board asked Director of Operations Maynard Forbes about the progress of the solar panel project for the Town Garage, for which the town had received grant money one to two years ago. Forbes said the project was on hold right now, and the funds were still with CET. The board asked if the Clean Energy Choice matching grants could be added to the solar panel grant, and Forbes said he would report back.

Bally Gally

Peter and Anna Poirier, tenants of Bally Gally on New Marlborough Road, the rental house on Edith Wislon property bequeathed to the town, requested a new two-year lease when the current lease runs out in October. Select Board member Jon Sylbert explained that the town is not allowed to sign multiyear contracts, so the Select Board granted them a one-year lease starting in November, with one year's option at the same price. The Poiriers also asked about the possibility of having a wood stove. At a later meeting, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that there is no thimble on the chimney, so no wood stove could be installed until this is brought up to code. Forbes also reported that the ceiling is not leaking at present, but some beams are rotted, a problem that will have to be addressed in the future. The roof is scheduled to be reshingled by a local contractor.

Board of Appeals Alternate

Susan Cooper, alternate member of the Board of Appeals, requested a year's leave of absence in order to accompany her husband to Australia. She asked that her absence be treated as a sabbatical and that she be allowed to resume her duties upon her return in June 2009. There are five elected members of the Board of Appeals and two alternates appointed by the Select Board, all for terms of five years each. The board consulted the town counsel about whether this would constitute a vacancy that should be filled by a new appointee, or whether the position could be filled by an interim member appointed for one year. The attorney replied that the Select Board has the right to appoint a new permanent alternate board member to fill the five-year term if the Board of Appeals decides they need a new appointee, but that the Select Board could not appoint an interim member for the year that Susan will be gone. The Select Board will wait for the Board of Appeals to decide whether Susan's leave of absence creates a vacancy.

Highways and Operations

The Select Board received an email and a letter from New Marlborough stating that Hatchery Road was being closed because a portion of the road is falling into the river, creating unsafe conditions. While Monterey's end of the road (River Road) remains open to just before the Berkshire Fish Hatchery driveway, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes is concerned that this will cause snowplowing problems since there will be no turnaround for our trucks, which have been turning around at Mt. Everett Sanitation at the Hartsville end of Hatchery Road. Also, the fish hatchery is no longer accessible from River Road, creating a hardship for the Monterey volunteers who do much of the work at the hatchery. Wayne Burkhart met with the New Marlborough Select Board the week of June 9th and reported that New Marlborough intends to keep the road closed indefinitely until funds are available for repairs; also they would appreciate Monterey's assistance and cooperation in asking for funds from our local representatives.

The board and Forbes reviewed a forest cutting plan submitted by the Commonwealth for Beartown State Forest on Beartown Mountain and Brett Roads.

Forbes was notified by State Representative Smitty Pignatelli that a transportation bond bill had been passed locally and includes a line item for $300,000 to

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cover the cost of a salt shed for Monterey (which has been mandated by the state). It still needs approval from the House and Senate boards. State Senator Downing was called and asked to attend a Select Board meeting.

The paving of Curtis Road has been completed.

On Monday, June 2, the board and Maynard Forbes opened and reviewed the bids received for a new dump truck to replace the 1993 Mack truck:

- Springfield Mack: $99,679.90.
- Albany Truck Sales: $101,987.00.
- Tri State Diesel, Inc./Tri-State Kenworth: $99,892.00.

After further review, the bid was awarded the following week to Tri State Diesel, as the lowest bid that met all specifications. The new truck has a rust-free aluminum cab, is available now, and will be on the road before winter.

On Monday, May 16, the following bids for a ¾-ton pickup truck with snow-plow to replace the 2002 Chevrolet pickup were presented and reviewed:

- Suburban Chevrolet: $36,305,00 minus trade in; $29,578.00.
- Richard Chevrolet: $26,740.00 w/o plow, including trade in.
- Liberty Chevrolet: $28,105.00 with trade in and plow
- Stoneham Motor Co: $21,285.00 with trade in, without plow.

After Forbes reviewed all the submitted documents, the bid was awarded the following week to Liberty Chevrolet.

Joanna Jennings

Peter Amidon leads some of the 90 plus people who attended the Sacred Harp Shape Note singing workshop and concert in the Monterey Meetinghouse on Saturday, May 31, an event sponsored by the Bidwell House Museum and the Monterey Cultural Council.

The following bids were received on June 16 for transfer station services:

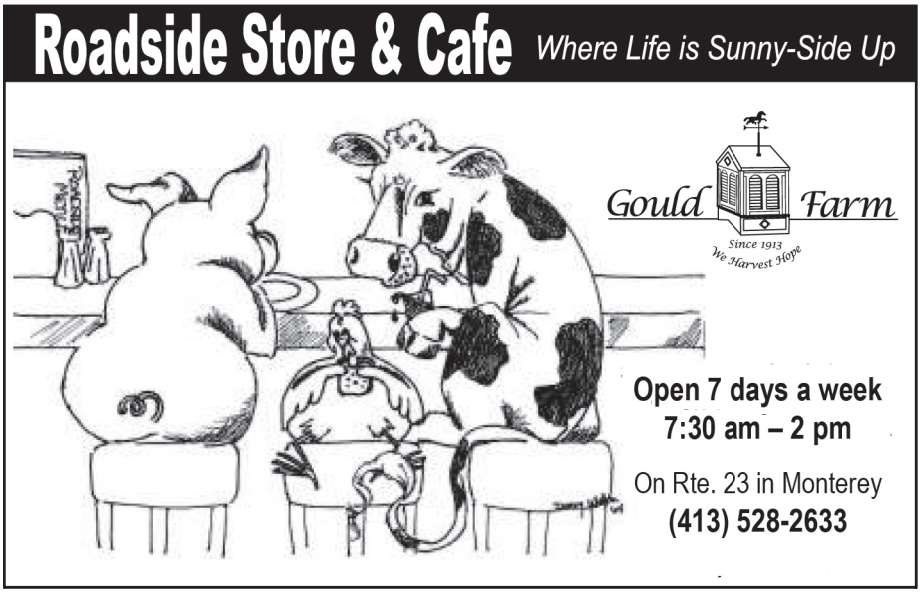
- Master Garbologist, Inc.: $760/ month for equipment; $1390/month for hauling and tipping service fees and $239/month for additional items per ton; $2100/ month for attendant.
- Valley Mill Corporation, dba Valley Roll Off: $671 monthly fee for equipment; $1125/month for hauling and tipping service fees, $190/month for additional items per ton; $2050/month for attendant.

After Forbes reviewed the documents, the bid was awarded to Master Garbologist.

Forbes was notified that the person who has been doing the roadside mowing will not be returning this year. Forbes will research tractors to prepare a funding request to be placed on next year's town meeting warrant so that the highway crew can do the job themselves. The Highway Department will be renting a tractor with mower for this year. Forbes spoke with National Grid about the possibility of them doing mowing under the lines, but they said it was not cost effective for them and they were not interested in starting that program.

Building Concerns

Mark White from Kutcher's Sports Camp attended the Select Board meeting on May 23 to clarify the requirements of the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Board of Health that had to be met in order for the camp's planned opening on June 29. Building Commissioner Don Torrico voiced his concerns that the various regulations would not be met in time to >



allow the legal opening of the camp. Over two hundred campers have been enrolled for the first week. Mr. White expressed gratitude for Torrico's cooperation over the last few months, and promised to do his best to assure that all requirements would be met and that the camp's opening would not be delayed.

The Select Board sent a letter to a homeowner on Hebert's Cove on Lake Buel requiring them to board up their house, which was damaged by fire a in April of last year.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Ray Tryon told the Select Board that, with their concurrence (which was given), the gazebo behind the fire station would be repainted.

Chief Tryon noted that the town is paying approximately $.30 more per gallon for gasoline at the town garage versus driving into Great Barrington and purchasing the gas at the nearest gas station. Maynard Forbes explained that the gas at the pumps at the highway garage is purchased on a yearly contract through the county bid, and is contracted through Agar, the only current bidder. The board will look into the possibility of getting a town gas credit card and purchasing gas in Great Barrington.

Tryon spoke about an accident that occurred a few weeks ago where the police officers on duty asked for a written statement from individual firemen of their observations. Tryon said that due to privacy regulations no one on the Fire Department is allowed to release this information to anyone. He said that in these situations the police officer should have the Police Chief ask for the information directly from the Fire Chief. Tryon will work out a procedure with the Police Chief.

Police Matters

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus discussed with the Select Board the particulars of the bid for the new police car, for which $27,000 was granted in the town warrant.

Backhaus also requested that buoys at the town beach swimming area be located so that a space would be left for emergency purposes. The Select Board said that the decision is up to the Park Commission.

The Monterey Police responded to the following situations last month:

- Assisted with an ongoing situation on Wellman Road.
- Lost license plate.
- Investigated a report of someone being threatened at place of work and home.
- Fender bender at the transfer station.
- Motor vehicle accident on Rt. 23; party left the scene, leaving an extensive amount of guardrail damage.
- Assisted Great Barrington police at Eagleton School for a runaway.
- Assisted Fire Department with a medical call on River Road.
- Assisted Fire Department with a CO alarm call on Buckingham Lane.
- Responded several times to an alarm on Swann Road.
- Abandoned 911 calls on Main Road (misdialed number) and Lime Rock Lane.

This and That

Michel Storch discussed with the Select Board the possibilities for providing affordable housing in Monterey.

The Park Commission asked if Valerie Zantay, a member of the commission, could be hired as a town beach lifeguard. After conferring with the State Ethics Commission, the Select Board designated Zantay a special municipal employee pursuant to the state ethics law and approved her being hired as a paid lifeguard.

LakeFest, sponsored by the Friends of Lake Garfield, will be on Saturday, August 16.

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Ray Tryon expressed his disappointment that more veterans did not take part in the Memorial Day parade and festivities and suggested appointing a committee to coordinate the activities instead of asking one person to do it. Select Board member Scott Jenssen volunteered to be the coordinator and was appointed for three years. He will organize veterans for the Memorial Day parade and call for volunteers to march and help out in other ways.

A sum of $500 was transferred to the Emergency Planning Committee. This item should have appeared on this year's town warrant, and will be on the warrant in the future.

The annual second homeowners meeting with the Select Board will be held at the Monterey Firehouse on Saturday, July 12, at 10:30 a.m.

— Sue Protheroe

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Calling All Gardeners! Donate Your Surplus

Gas is outrageously expensive. Food prices climb precipitously on a daily basis. More and more people in Berkshire County are going to food pantries and kitchens, which are running out of food. The world has had and will always have major problems that seem insurmountable, but sometimes small gestures from folks like us can make a difference Case in point: local gardeners who want to share their vegetable surplus with the food pantry at Old Parish Church in Sheffield.

If you're a summer vegetable gardener and don't know what to do with all that extra squash or tomatoes or kale or—well, you get the picture—you can donate it for feeding the hungry. Here's the plan. Rev. Elizabeth Goodman of the Monterey United Church of Christ has offered to let us use the refrigerator in the church kitchen to store the fresh vegetables. On Sundays, before 5:00 p.m., you can leave your surplus harvest in the refrigerator. The vegetables don't have to be washed, but if you're so inclined, it's a nice idea. Please put the vegetables in bags of some sort.

I'll pick up the vegetables on Monday morning by 8:30 and deliver them to the Food Assistance Program at the Old Parish Church, where their volunteers distribute food. The church has four teams of volunteers who are each responsible for certain households. This way the team gets to know their peoples' needs, and thus can knowingly pack an appropriate selection for each family. The Old Parish food pantry also gets fresh vegetables on a weekly basis from Farm Girl Farm in Egremont.

Marcia Brolli, a New Marlborough resident who's very involved with the Old Parish pantry, wants to make sure we understand that all people in the Southern Berkshires are eligible for this food pantry, so if you know of Monterey residents who could benefit from the pantry, please let us know.

We need to spread the word to as many Monterey gardeners as possible, so please let your friends and neighbors know about this program. What with food prices spiraling quickly and energy prices almost out of control, people in need have less money to spend on food. We know that freshly grown local food is the healthiest to eat, and now is the time to help those less fortunate than ourselves and share our bounty.

If you're interested in sharing your garden bounty, please call me at 528-0577 or email me at lauryepstein@gmail.com. Thank you very much.

— Laury Epstein

The Bidwell House Museum
A Mid-Summer's Eve Garden Party
1794 Brewer House, 184 Main Road, Tyringham
Saturday, July 12th, 4-7 pm
$35 per person; children free
Call (413) 528-6888 for reservations.

The Students' View of the School District Problems

The following is a shortened version of the Valedictorian's address delivered by Alex Crawford at the June 7th Mount Everett graduation ceremony.

Today is a celebration of the class of 2008 and their many achievements and efforts. But today does more than reflect on the class of 2008. What you see before you today is also a reflection of the school, the community, and the individuals that shaped and affected this class.

Regarding that community, for the past thirteen months I have been quietly following the proceedings of local politics, especially those regarding Mount Everett. Today I come to you distraught by the stubborn, bitter, and often uninformed opinions and subsequent actions taken up by many people in our community. From May 2007 through May 2008, I have read headlines declaring "civil war" and "Bush-like tactics" in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. It seems the wider world wishes to make a fiasco out of our problems, but although I would deny we are in a war, I have seen too much frustration and hurt to believe our area is presently secure. As the state took direct observance over the school district's finances, angry rhetoric and overtones of enmity were rampant in the Southern Berkshires, and despite our efforts to solve these issues, the strain still seems to linger.

One emotion in particular has captivated my concern: at Sheffield's town meeting this May, people expressed that they strongly feared other towns in our district. This was a startling revelation: we fear each other.

Going into the school year, we students were told that the state takeover would *not* affect our daily routines. That is, however, a misunderstanding of the students. For at Mount Everett we've been taught to think and be concerned about our surroundings. Because of this, we were very interested in understanding the reality of the occurrences in our towns. We are willing to educate ourselves about our society and to ask questions. We are grateful and forever indebted to this community for granting us this education and inspiring us to become involved in our society. And it is because of this remarkable support and education that we stand here today worrying about our school and our community.

These students before you today are *not* ignorant. We have most certainly been affected by the knowledge of what has occurred in the area, and, yes, we understand the difficulties and considerations that go into managing a town and a school district. We understand the financial difficulties of today, and we understand that everyone in this community has been and will be making sacrifices. But what distresses us is that understanding seems to be missing between our member towns.

A hopeful event that came as result of such awareness occurred this year at our school committee meetings when staff, and also students, expressed their concern about the position cuts that would be necessary if the proposed budget was passed. This was not the most cordial of occasions, but there were legitimate concerns and considerations. Furthermore, the committee later added $100,000 dollars to the budget. There were signs of distrust and fear present at those meetings, and sometimes things felt rather ugly, but we can find solace that, despite many varying fears and mistakes, a unified group of people was able to address its concern to a receptive audience and find progress. Will we still have to make sacrifices? Yes, but the cuts will be less severe.

I also stress that, despite our high faculty to student ratio, our mere 370 students in grades seven through twelve makes such a ratio necessary to provide the same variety of classes and quality of education that larger schools receive. That $100,000 addition restoring a position or two that would otherwise have been cut is not carelessly throwing money at this school. It is maintaining what is necessary to continue to provide us children of SBRSD with the opportunities that bring MCAS scores that are annually among the top three in Berkshire County. We have college acceptances that are competitive, including alumni at Smith, Brown, Yale, and Williams. We also have an intensive special needs program and enriching extracurricular activities that are as vibrant and successful as other schools in the

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area. And the best part is that we are all one school.

We are all one school because despite the diversity, we find it more productive to focus on our commonalities and mutual endeavors than to suspect our differences. And perhaps the solution to this fear and this enmity is reflected in the children of SBRSD. The students and staff here are not five communities; we are one community. Those people from other towns that are feared so much? They are not our strangers and enemies. From the student perspective, they are our family and friends; our comrades and peers. They are the ones whose shoulders we cry on when we're sad, and whom we embrace when we're happy. They are the ones with whom we play, study, lose, and succeed. I am a resident of Sheffield, and, yes, some of my best friends live here or in Ashley Falls, but others live in New Marlborough, Egremont, Alford, Monterey, even Mount Washington and Sandisfield. And when I meet people from Lenox or from Williamstown, I'm not from Sheffield; I'm from Mount Everett. That is how I identify myself. I'm actually referring to the school entity as "we" even when I have been merely a student. I have no animosity toward people from other towns in this school district, because from the perspective of a student here, we all come from the same place: Mount Everett.

At any rate, despite some difficulties and reminders of the turmoil in the community throughout this year, we students have been doing our part to continue to persevere with enthusiasm. We have maintained our high level of academics. Our sports teams have continued to succeed, and our acting performances have been remarkable, even with our thinly spread funds.

And today, I am declaring before this audience that we have not surrendered to the soothing of ignorance, that we have continued to be aware of our surroundings. So I urge my class: be persistent in your curiosity and your concern. Continue to pay tribute to your community by continuing to seek understanding and truth in whatever endeavor you undertake.

And I urge the adults of this community to consider the students that their school has developed, to mark our energy, our gratitude, and our desire for understanding and education. I invite you to be curious and to become aware of the incredible talent, inspiration, determination, and camaraderie that are developed within our halls. Become aware of the relationships and the learning forged by the students and staff of our school. Discover how we, without fear and division are working together toward that common goal of education and understanding.

If you do so, perhaps you will find a small flame of wisdom at this school, a community that so easily comes to common ground and common goals. Perhaps you will discover why Mount Everett uses the symbol of the auriga: five points of one unified star dazzling brightly in the wilderness of Western Massachusetts, the campfire around which we pitch our tents. We students have embraced that symbolism, and we understand it. It works.

— Alex Crawford

Friends of Lake Garfield
Meeting @ Firehouse
Saturday, July 5, 9:30 a.m.

Don't miss our fabulous mystery guest speaker!!! (Actually at this point in time, who it will be is a mystery to us, as well; however we have several fabulous candidates.)

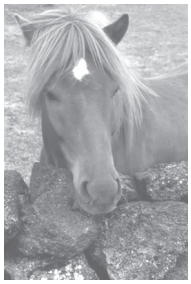
The topic could pertain to drawdown and dock damage, the summer weed forecast, the health of Lake Garfield, the public boating launch, or the never-ending battle for truth justice, and the American way!

We will definitely discuss LakeFest 2008!

In an effort to be "greener" we ask you to please bring your own plates, silverware, and reusable drink containers.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons at Lake Garfield, sponsored by the Park Commission, begin the week of July 14th. Signup sheets with times will be available at the town beach.



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Cultural Council Events
Brass Quintet, Printmaking

The Monterey Cultural Council will host the Copper Street Brass Quintet at the Monterey Meetinghouse on Sunday, July 27, at 4:00 p.m. This group has played for audiences nation-wide in concert halls, festivals, and community events such as ours. It is known for its superb energetic, passionate, and eclectic repertoire that ranges from Renaissance to hip-hop. The quintet members, including Alan Dean of Monterey, are also dedicated to music education; they have taught in schools, and as a group they have commissioned new works from both young and established composers. Call Julie Shapiro for details at 413-528-9312. The concert is free and open to the public. Don't miss this one!

Also this summer is a printmaking workshop led by Adrienne Lederman on Saturday, August 16, in the social hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lederman will introduce the group to various methods of printmaking and each participant will create original prints. This event is free, but limited to 10 participants (aged twelve and up), so preregistration is required. Call Adrienne at 413-269-7119 with questions and to preregister.

The Cultural Council sends out a special thanks to Bonner McAllester for the nature hike she led on June 8 at the Land Trust property on Mt. Hunger Road. It was a real joy to see this amazing property through Bonner's eyes.

Thanks also to Joe Baker, whose term on the Cultural Council has ended due to the state's mandatory term limits. Almost every Council event in the last few years has been marked by Joe's vision, behind-the-scenes work, and encouragement to other volunteers and the artists in our community. The rest of us on the council will work hard to live up to his example. Thank you, Joe.

ॐ

A Good Deed

On June 18th Christine Martin, who lives on Route 23, was on medical leave because she had had back surgery. She was walking as her doctors advised and heard a smoke detector going off in a house on her walking loop. Instead of just ignoring it (perhaps because her husband, Del, is a mainstay in the Monterey Fire Company) she hurried to the town beach and phoned 911 (it's free!). It turned out that the house had a definite problem that would have escalated had those Fire Guys from MFD not gotten there to deal with it!

On non-post-surgery days Christine is a teacher of Spanish in Southern Berkshire schools. She and Del have two children.

From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2009 Real Estate and Personal Property first quarter tax bills will be mailed on July 1 and are due August 1, 2008. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the Tax Collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). These bills are preliminary and list the first two quarters based on last year's tax rate. You will receive another bill for the second quarter in October (due November 3). However, if you wish, you may pay both the first and second quarters now.

Some taxpayers who have been taxed for personal property in the past may not receive a personal property tax bill this year. At the annual town meeting on May 3, 2008, the town voted to exempt taxes on personal property valued under $10,000. Questions regarding personal property, assessments or exemptions should be directed to the Board of Assessors at 413-528-1443 x115.

Berkshire Hatchery Foundation Lobsterfest

The Berkshire Hatchery Foundation is sponsoring its 6th annual Lobsterfest at the Hatchery on Sunday, August 24, at 2p.m. Enjoy raw bar, steamers, lobsters, corn, and more, plus music and fun. Tickets are $65 per person. Call 413-528-9761.

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Summer at the Library

Thank you to Roger Tryon, our Tree Warden, and to Gould Farm for replacing our dying crabapple tree.

We have a lot of events going on this summer at the library—please check the *Monterey News* calendar and the library web site, which can be found as part of the Town of Monterey's web site, www.montereyma.gov.

First--our sunmmer reading program, sponsored by the Monterey Library, the Massachuseets Board of Library Commissioners, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, the Monterey General Store, and supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council (a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency). Pre-school and school-age children can register at the Monterey Library to keep track of their summer reading. This year's theme is "Wild Reads at Your Library!" Activities and information, including discount coupons at various kid's activities, are available.

Our Saturday morning programs for kids start July 5 at 10:30 a.m. when Greg McAdams will use magic, comedy, and puppetry in a wild tour of the library.

On Saturday, July 12, at 10:30 a.m., Caravan puppets will present Timeless Tales, an interactive performance of classic world stories featuring beautiful staging and original music.

On Monday, July 14, at 7 p.m we will host the Sisters in Crime—mystery writers who will discuss how they write. The library has copies of books by Sarah Smith, Jessica Speart, and Gary Braver (yes, one of the "sisters" is a man), who will discuss the writing process in a program geared for adults. Feel free to search CWMARS as well—any books, audios, and videos you would like to check out are only a mouse click away with your CWMARS card!

On Saturday, July 19, at 10:30 a.m., come "Howl at the Moon with a Wild Thing Tune" with Tom Sieling,a wonderfully engaging singer/songwriter who will bring humor and a unique musical point of view to the library.

On July 26 and August 2, again at 10:30 a.m., we will have volunteer storytellers and activities for young children.

Of course our biggest summer event is our book sale. Please come and look through our thousands of books on Saturday, July 26, from 9 to 1. Every book you buy supports all the programming we offer as well as the library in general. This sale is what allows us to offer more than just books. We appreciate all the donations for the sale, and are asking that all books be brought before July 15 to allow us to organize them and make your browsing easier. Please, no damaged books, textbooks, old computer books, magazines, puzzles, or foreign language books.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

Book Talk at Bidwell House

David J. McLaughlin will launch his new book *Inside the Berkshires,* featuring the Bidwell House on the cover, at a book talk and wine and cheese reception at the Bidwell House on Saturday, July 19, at 4 p.m.

McLaughlin's first book is a graphic and verbal timeline called *The Unfolding History of the Berkshires*. A series of ten foldout timelines, the book is a chronological history of the Berkshires featuring professional photography and other images in a visually treat. Cultural and historical essays cut to the chase and provide an overview of Berkshire history at its best. Every home in the Berkshires should have McLaughlin's books for handy reference and to explore the rich possibilities of present and future trends in the Berkshires.

Martha Dailey, Director of the Bidwell House Museum, said, "McLaughlin has agreed to sign copies of his books which will make an appealing gift for visitors to the Berkshires and for holiday giving. His book is a work of art and we are pleased to host this author of fascinating stories about our beautiful county."

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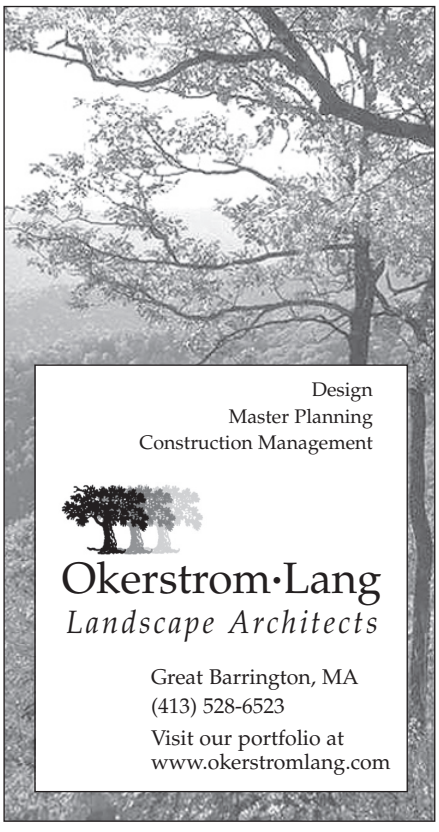

8th Annual "Who the Heck are the Friends of Lake Garfield and Why Should I Give a Hoot?" Quiz

1. The Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) is/are:

A. An 18-piece all-musical-saw orchestra that performs at the General Store the 6th Thursday of every month, all year round. And summers, too. Except Thursdays.

B. An organization dedicated to providing modest and attractive garments for covering the naughty parts of all semiaquatic mammals and *Branta Canadensis* (Canadian Geese) browsing and grazing on our *sui generis* Lake Garfield.

C. A band of renegade teenagers who eschew MySpace, IMs, blogging, and texting, and meet secretly in the wooded hills above Lake Garfield once a week, to read old-fashioned paper books.

FLG. A tireless collection of community-minded folks, deeply dedicated to the preservation and protection of our glorious Lake Garfield, for all to enjoy. Visit our website for news and membership. Become a friend at www.lakegarfield.org or call 413-528-9090.

2. The accomplishments of Friends of Lake Garfield include:

A. The dissemination of information on weed infestation and the creation of means of eradication of said situation.

B. The successful renovation of the Albany International Airport baggage handling system, after it dropped our suitcases into the conveyor belt and tore them to shreds.

C. GarFresh, a bottled miracle beverage that will keep you hydrated for hours while clearing aquatic weeds from the banks of Lake Garfield. (Disclaimer: *Warning: This product may cause headaches, bloating, infection, chronic pain, tsunamis, meteor strikes, plagues of locusts, and spontaneous combustion.)*

D. World peace.

E. The writing of stupid quizzes.

3. What can you do to reduce weeds in Lake Garfield?

A. Once a week, boil the lake for 8 minutes.

B. At full moon, while shaking a cat's tail, dance in a trance and chant, "Weeds, weeds, go away and don't come back another day."

C. Get a riding mower and SCUBA gear—and you can take it from there. Yeehaa!

D. Complain loudly and obnoxiously at FLG meetings.

E. Those in the Lake Garfield Water-Shed Area should use low phosphate dishwashing liquid and detergent; use no (or, at least, slow-release) fertilizers on lawns; clean out your septics every 2 or 3 years (wear gloves!); support the continuance of a science-based approach to winter "drawdown" as the best alternative to preventing weeds from turning the lake into a meadow; do not remove long-established vegetation on the shore provided by nature and best left undisturbed as a natural, organic lake buffer.

4. Important dates to stick on your fridge this summer are:

A. August 16, the day in 1777 that American forces won the battle of Bennington, in Vermont.

B. August 16, the day in 1829 that the original Siamese twins, Eng and Chang, arrived in Boston.

C. August 16, the day in 1948 that the "Bambino," Babe Ruth, died in NYC.

D. August 16, the day in 1960 that Cyprus became an independent republic.

E. August 16, the day in 2008 that LakeFest will delight child and adult alike in Monterey. And while you're writing, jot down FLG meetings at 9:30 a.m. at the Firehouse on Saturdays, July 5 and August 2.

5. LakeFest is . . .

A. FLG and the town's gala summer celebration at the town beach, on August 16.

B. FREE fun for all of Monterey.

C. Events, crafts, games, face-painting.

D. Free motorboat rides.

E. A luscious, scrumptious potluck dinner.

F. Two additional porto-potties on the beach.

G. David Grover & the Big Bear Band.

H. Fireworks!

I. All of the above, except for H, which is not part of our budget, unless some "angel" among you suddenly appears

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and hands us $6,600—as has happened in the past, but only once. Or until enough of you pledge contributions toward the cost of fireworks, in any amount you wish. Please note: we will accept your donation only if we receive pledges sufficient for meeting the full cost of the fireworks display.

6. The most important question to ponder while lying on the beach at Lake Garfield and looking up at the clouds is . . .

A. Why is it that something sent in a car is a shipment, yet something sent on a ship is cargo?

B. Isn't it strange that the second hand on your watch is actually its third hand?

C. Did you ever open your refrigerator, look at everything on the shelves, find nothing you wanted to eat—and then come back again a few minutes later, expecting something delicious to have magically materialized in there?

D. How does a thermos know whether to keep its contents hot or cold?

E. Ask yourself this: "What can I do to become more involved in promoting and preserving the health and beauty of Lake Garfield?" (Reminder: If you're not already a member, sign up at www.LakeGarfield.org or call Hy Rosen at 413-528-9090

Answers: 1-FLG, 2-A, 3-E, 4-E, 5-I, 6-E

Once again, Harriet Harvey & Hy Rosen get the blame for this quiz.

Sisters in Crime at Monterey Library July 14

Attention mystery lovers! The Sisters in Crime will be making a return appearance to the Monterey Library, and this time they will be bringing a brother along with them. Three well-known mystery writers, Jessica Speart, Sarah Smith, and Gary Braver will be speaking at the library on Monday, July 14, at 7:00 p.m. on "Using What You Know" to write a mystery story.

Sarah Smith has written *Chasing Shakespeares,* about the Shakespeare authorship controversy, and three historical mysteries, *The Vanished Child, The Knowledge of Water, and A Citizen of the Country. The Vanished Child* and *The Knowledge of Water* were named *New York Times* Notable Books of the Year. They have been published in twelve languages and in the UK, and have reached bestseller status here and abroad. *Chasing Shakespeares* has been made into a play, and *The Vanished Child* has been optioned for film.

Jessica Speart is an investigative journalist whose focus is on wildlife law enforcement, endangered species issues, and the environment. Speart created her sleuth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agent Rachel Porter, after years of investigating wildlife and drug trafficking crimes for publications such as the *New York Sunday Times Magazine, Omni, Travel & Leisure, Audubon, National Wildlife, Mother Jones, Wildlife Conservation, Earth Journal,* and *Animals Magazine*, among others. When she began to find the characters she covered stranger than fiction, she decided to turn her pen toward mysteries.

Gator Aide, Tortoise Soup, Bird Brained, Border Prey, Black Delta Night, A Killing Season, *Coastal Disturbance, Blue Twilight* and *Restless Waters* and *Unsafe Harbor* are the first ten books in the Rachel Porter series.

Gary Braver is the bestselling and award-winning author of seven critically acclaimed thrillers including *Elixir, Gray Matter,* and *Flashback,* which is the only thriller to have won a prestigious Massachusetts Book Award and which in a starred review *Publishers Weekly* called "an exceptional medical thriller." His novels have been translated into five languages, and three have been optioned for movies. He is the only writer to have three books listed on the top-10 highest customer-rated mysteries on Amazon.com at the same time. His seventh novel, *Skin Deep,* a medical thriller centered on cosmetic surgery, will be published on July 8, 2008. Under his own name, Gary Goshgarian, he is an award-winning professor of English at Northeastern University, where he teaches courses in Modern Bestsellers, Science Fiction, Horror Fiction, and Fiction Writing.

If you are a mystery buff or perhaps have an interest in writing your own thriller, please join us on July 14 to find out how these authors successfully create their tales of intrigue.

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Sandisfield Arts Center July Events

The following are the events and performances happening in July at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Please call 413-258-4100 or email info@sandisfieldartscenter.org for reservations and information.

Saturday Morning Forums on American History & Culture

The Sandisfield Arts Center's 2008 Forum Series will focus on the impact of culture on presidential election outcomes from 1948 to the present. We will examine various aspects of culture in the second half of the twentieth century and the first years of the twenty-first that informed and guided voters to make electoral decisions that affected their economic and civic interests over time. Each forum begins at 10:30 and ends at noon. Admission is $5. Coffee and treats available.

Saturday, July 12: Culture & the Winners & Losers

Bill Cohn, a Sandisfield resident and SAC board member, will explain the aspects of American culture that contributed to the victories and defeats of presidential candidates from Truman and Dewey in 1948 to Bush and Gore in 2004.

Saturday July 19: Black Americans & the Franchise

Val Coleman, also a Sandisfield resident and SAC board member, will discuss the evolution of Black voting rights from the post Civil War era to the present, noting the changes in the American experience that tended to inhibit or enhance Black participation in electoral politics as well as in American culture and society.

Saturday July 26: From Getting the Vote to Getting Votes: A Woman As President?

Audrey Manring, former editor of *The Womenís Times* and a resident of Great Barrington, will talk about changes in American culture that have made it possible for a woman to emerge as a viable presidential candidate in 2008 and the cultural hurdles that remain.

Saturday August 2: Time to Cast Your Ballot

At our concluding session we will ask the audience to talk about whom they're voting for and to trace the history of their vote beyond the individual personality of the candidate they intend to support.

Bernice Lewis & Bobby Sweet

Saturday, July 12, 9 p.m., $15

Listening to Bobby Sweet and Bernice Lewis perform together is a real treat. Bobby Sweet is a sixth-generation musician from Becket, a small Berkshire community where the loves and lives of those around him continually provide the wellspring for new songs. Bobby's guitar and vocal work have been featured on albums with other musicians including Arlo Guthrie as well as four CDs of his own.

Bernice Lewis elevates the experiences of everyday life to an art form. She has more than earned her stellar reputation as a songwriter's songwriter. A fixture on the coffeehouse circuit, contemporary folk radio, and at major festivals, Bernice has shared the stage with such renowned artists as Pete Seeger and the Dixie Chicks. She lives in Williamstown and teaches at Williams College.

Classical Guitarist Joel Brown

Saturday, July 26, 8 p.m., $20

Classical Guitarist Joel Brown returns to the Sandisfield Arts Center for another delightful evening. Brown's eclectic career has taken him to England to record with the London Symphony, to Carnegie Hall with soprano Dawn Upshaw, and to recital performances with Frederika von Stade. He has appeared at New York's Alice Tully Hall with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Tanglewood Festival, the Chamber Music Festival at Saratoga, Music in the Mountains in British Columbia, and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. He is best known to Sandisfield audiences as a longtime collaborator with Bill Crofut.

Nobody to Talk To.

That's really what's bad about being old:
There's nobody to talk to, nobody at all to talk to,
About a little thing like feeling cold
Or finding bread growing green mold
At the back of the bottom shelf
Of the refrigerator. I blame myself.
I need someone to blame;
Yet here a friend's a name –
A stranger – just a name
And every stranger is a friend:
They'll all be needed at the end.
And yet there is no one to talk to,
No one who would understand
The details, or could comprehend
Those all-consuming parts of life,
Excesses all: wild joys, grim strife.
Everyone here's quite calm, polite, and bright,
Too clean and neat to savor past delight
In indiscretions best forgotten
Sweet memories slowly going rotten
All they want is cleaned-up stories
Not sordid half-remembered glories
Too embarrassing to recall
We want things nice. That's all.
And there's nobody left to talk to; nobody left.
I weep alone, of old loves bereft
And missing, oh, missing friends that died
Friends I laughed with, friends who cried
On shoulders (figuratively of course)
No strangers, we would endorse
Or tolerate, at least, our many sins,
Laughing at losses, relishing the wins.
Above all talk. Talk as a friend.
It seems so wrong, exactly at the end
To be a stranger to a friend
To be a stranger to the world.

— Geoffrey Charlesworth

Haiku

I sit, watch, as you
from behind dark cedars peek
moon, play hide and seek
* *
Lights flicker on a
distant shore. Reassurance?
Who could ask for more?
* *
Yellow moon you drop
behind dark hills, and here come
shooting stars out. Thrills!
* *
Daddy long legs down
my pants you creep. How will I
ever get to sleep?

— Kit Patten

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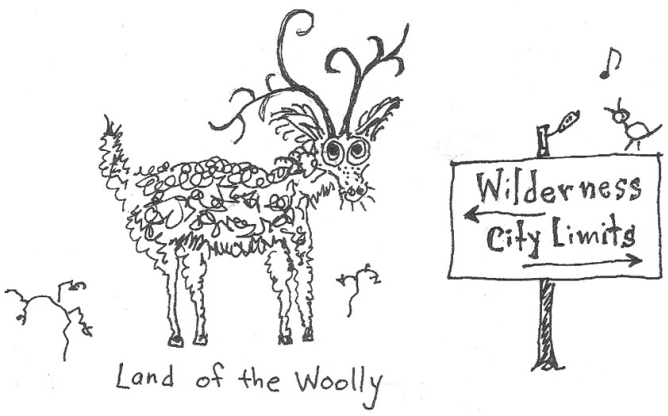
Got Wildness?

Have you ever heard of Christopher Manes? He's written a book called *Green Rage: Radical Environmentalism and the Unmaking of Civilization*. I recently read an interview with him in which he refers to that famous quote from Henry David Thoreau, "In wildness is the preservation of the world."

I used to think that what Thoreau meant by this was wild nature, the wilderness, the pure and "untrammeled" (to quote the 1964 Wilderness Act) landscape you can still find in some places. I figured we do need it for lots of reasons, and though I wasn't sure exactly how it could preserve the rest of the world, I was willing to hope, to intuit.

Now I've read Christopher Manes who says "… when we talk about wildness, we should consider not only the wildness of nature and the wonderful blossoming and efflorescing of life that goes on around us, but also the wildness Thoreau speaks about in our own lives, the independence, freedom, and deeper emotional participation that our overwrought and regimented culture can't tolerate."

So I went to Thoreau myself and read his essay "Walking." I discovered that when he speaks of "wildness" he means the whole nine yards, inside and out. There are the swamps and the wild weather, but there is also the wildness within each of us, the way we are not separate from Nature (Thoreau uses a capital N) but a part of it all. This begins to feel like That Which Cannot Be Spoken, or Written, but because we are human we do keep on trying. We also keep hungering for the wild, any way we can get more of it. As scrubbed and presentable as we are, as fenced and trimmed and regulated as our lifestyles have become, the wild within is like some compass needle always pulling us to Thoreau's Nature. Even when we don't have the right jacket or footgear, even when we are afraid we could get stomped by a moose or bit by a tick, we still veer toward Nature as well as we know how.



This can take the form of buying the automobile or even the cigarette that is advertised to us in a glorious untrammeled setting, or wearing the big hiking boots to walk across campus to science class (this was me), keeping our fantasy options open for a wild mountain to spring up next to the library.

Loch Wade, writing in the April/May 2008 issue of *The Canyon Country Zephyr* leads us through the etymology of "Wilderness" (in "Do We Really Need Wilderness?" pp. 18-21.) He says it is a combination of two ancient Germanic words meaning "the wild deer place," which was a place to which antisocial types were driven off to live. It was wild humans, as much as wild deer, who could be found in this place. Wade says our word "wild" has the same origin as "wool," which means untamed and unshorn. The same root, *ghwelt* and its cognate *ghwer* give us the Latin *ferus* and our words "feral," "fierce," and "ferocious."

The makers of language found the untamed land beyond the city limits to be dangerous. Europeans moving west across the Atlantic felt the same way, and yet they came and they came, just the way college students will always go up mountains in their big boots. What draws us? We build the boxes and move into them, go down the road in them, thinking this is what we want. But something always calls to us and is reinforced by each wild moment we get, every time we lose track of ourselves in our clothes and our boxes. It could happen in a storm, right in the back yard. It could happen on a beach, under a windy sky with salt spray in the air. It could even happen in a living room chair, with a cat on a lap and the feel of that Other—fabulous pelt, raucous purr, deadly claws, lithe body just an instant from the hunt.

We may be fitted into boxes, but we've all had our moments. We know we still have our senses, and I don't mean our civilized ones. These are the ones Thoreau meant, I now realize. These will be the preservation of the world because these are our strength and our powerful connection to the world, outside the city limits with the other wild things. It would be best for us to leave the city, but we don't really have to, as long as we can still hear the moose within. Or the dragonfly, the bat, the ring-necked snake.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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"The Door"

In the center of our little village, across from the Monterey General Store, stands the venerable Congregational Church, the Meetinghouse. One pictures its grand facade, the imposing front steps, and the historic dignity that projects an aura of good will and protection over the town and its inhabitants. There are many interesting aspects of the building, but even the keenest observer would rarely, if ever, single out an apparently minor feature that has, over the years, taken on a distinct significance.

There is a door. Facing the church, it is located just around the right front corner of the lower level, leading to the basement. It is unmarked and timeworn, calling no attention to itself, so that passersby pay it little or no notice. But to a group of fifteen or twenty regulars, this door represents the portal to a daily ritual of caffeine and conversation known as the Monterey Coffee Club.

A few years ago I was encouraged to visit. I have to confess that I had my doubts. After all, I was a relative newcomer in a town with a lot of history and multiple generation families. Each time I rounded the corner at Main and Tyringham I thought about it, but for several months I deferred.

When I finally opened that nondescript door, however, I was immediately at ease. There was the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and a palpable sense of camaraderie in the spacious but cozy basement room. The attendees represented a wide spectrum of backgrounds. Sitting shoulder to shoulder around a large rectangular table were a dozen people, some locals and some part-timers, some retirees and others on their way to work. There was a landscaper, a lawyer, a farmer, an amateur pilot, a banker, a highway construction supervisor. I struck up a conversation with the guy to my right, a robotics engineer. There were selfless volunteers who invest countless hours to run the fish hatchery as well as multiple civic projects.

The topics of discussion were equally diverse, ranging from an exchange of pointed gibes between Yankee and Red Sox fans to a spirited debate about prisoners' rights at Guantanamo.

"They're terrorists," someone said. "We're at war. Civil liberties have to be abrogated under circumstances like this."

"No," came a reply. "That's not what this country is about. These people have a right to counsel and trial, even if it's in a military context."

"Right," someone else agreed. "I was around during the McCarthy mess. This stuff is a slippery slope."

The debate continued, passions rising, until it came to Dick Tryon, aka "the mayor," a lifelong Monterey resident who had been sitting thoughtfully at the head of the table, his arms folded across his chest.

"How about you, Dick?" someone asked. Dick nodded and set his jaw.

"I'd shoot the sonsabitches!"

The tension immediately dissolved in laughter, and from that first day I sensed that this gathering was going to be a meaningful part of my life in Monterey. And it has been. It is welcoming. It is educational. It is a bonding experience wherein one gets to know his or her neighbors. The politics and opinions vary widely but are mutually respected. Although there are more men than women, it is not gender exclusive.

One contributes a dollar for the coffee, and in time this adds up to a tidy sum, most of which goes to the upkeep of the church and various charitable activities in the area. A copy of the Berkshire Eagle appears daily. Sometimes there's an offering of warm, home-baked coffee cake or a plate of sinful doughnuts from the general store.

If you've never attended, you are missing something. Pass through "the door" and you will gain entree to some of the magic and mystique of our unique Berkshire home.

— David Shifrin

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- **Black Americans and the Franchise** with Val Coleman

Saturday, July 26 10:30-Noon $5
- **From Getting the Vote to Getting Votes: A Woman as President?** with Audrey Manring

Letter from College
The Greatest Lesson

Finals in England are brutal. I always knew this, and yet somehow just knowing did not necessarily mean I could adequately prepare for it. I started my revision earlier than I have before, mostly because I could. Classes ended the second week into summer term, which translates as mid April and my first exam was the end of May. However, time management is not really the point here; I should just say one can always plan better and I am no exception. What then am I getting at? Well, despite my lack of fondness for the actual academic system there, and a tough exam period, I have a greater appreciation for the results of such an experience than I thought possible.

Reflecting on my year at London School of Economics, I have come to realize there is a significant level of uselessness concerning undergraduate exams, and possibly teaching methods, in the US, though I suppose I am being a little harsh. Two areas are significantly different here in England. The first is the actual format of the exams, which I am going to focus on, and the second is how the material is taught. Both have implications for the student and the learning process.

Exams and their format are a reflection of how students are expected to process the material. In most Middlebury classes, possibly exempting some 300 and 400 level courses, the exams are short answer and essay based. Short answer questions only require about two paragraphs explaining terms and their significance, sometimes in the context of an example. Essay questions are weighted more heavily and are closer to five or six paragraphs. The format of these exams results from how the information is taught, and LSE exams are no different.

The format of LSE exams and the expectations inherent in those who grade them would probably baffle most Middlebury students. The exams are either three or four essays in three hours. The questions concern debates highlighted in lectures during the year and are often statements followed by "Discuss." Identifications serve little purpose for such exams; students are expected to know them, but they are not a separate section on the exam. Why would anyone actually need to be able to instantly reproduce the "how," "what," "where," "when," and most importantly "why" of any given term? Examples from my introduction to comparative politics class last year at Middlebury included "democracy," "kleptocracy," and "political participation." These terms are useful to know, but learning them without a larger context allows the student to memorize, not think about their implications and how to apply them.

I have used all of those terms, applied to actual essay questions, on LSE exams. I did not spend hours cramming to learn terms written out on flashcards, but I did need to know their importance to use in my essays to provide justification for my argument. Why stop at answering the five questions for identifications, why not make students responsible for learning them to use in an essay? For example: "Why are some experiments in democracy more successful than others? Discuss." Welcome to a question on my political sociology exam. I am not boasting that I gave a textbook answer with perfect formatting in my essay, but all of the above terms from my comparative politics exams can easily be used as I make my point. Therefore there is a difference in the actual structure of exams that forces students to go beyond the information to the application of it to answer essay questions. However, the ability of a student to do this depends on how she or he learned the information, and thus comes the second significant difference of the education system.

It is hard to specify this, but I would describe it as the argument or the debate within a different topic. Lectures at LSE focus on these specifically, and which authors are well known for their theses. This format is then replicated in the expectations for LSE essays. You have to have an argu-

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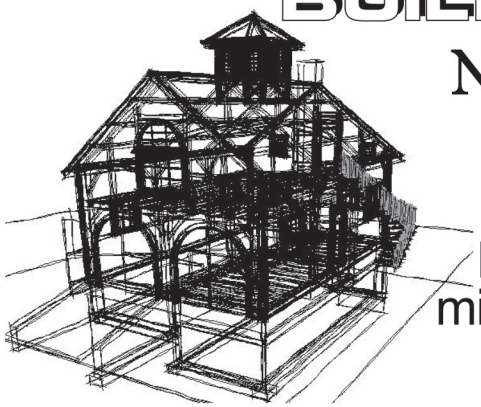
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ment when you answer your essay questions, which implies that you understand the debate within a given topic and the literature surrounding it. It is possible that I did not fully grasp what Middlebury exams are asking for, but my classes themselves are rarely taught by framing a debate. I do fairly well on those exams, and I have never approached learning my topics that way. I suspect that the essay questions are looking for the student to answer the question using convincing information learnt over the course of the year; the structure and a solid understanding of a debate and the surrounding literature is not emphasized as strongly.

Information at Middlebury, especially in introduction courses, is provided through a lecture containing the facts, but it is less often that a discussion of a "debate" is actually the core of the lecture. Not all LSE classes do this either. One example, in my introduction to international relations course at LSE, when we discussed the clash of civilizations (between Islam and the West) thesis of Samuel Huntington, our context was not just questioning if he was "right or wrong" but also what the dangers are when his thesis becomes so mainstream that others no longer question it. I have talked about the thesis many times before, but never with this angle.

At LSE, the previous exam essay questions are all available to students during the year and most times, the four essays we write throughout the year are on topics in those questions. Therefore we get a chance to wrestle with the same debates ahead of time, though the questions are phrased differently from year to year on the exams. Students acquire the information through the well-researched papers (I checked out over 150 books this year from the LSE library), and can learn enough about that debate while writing these essays; on the exams, any version of that question can then be answered because of how thoroughly the student has already learned about it. It happened to me twice during my exams that essays I wrote during the year helped me formulate answers for exam questions.

I am glad to be home, and of course am looking forward to senior year. However, after experiencing LSE and being in the British system and in London for a year, I also know that the independent nature of the system holds students responsible for actually learning. In reality, at Middlebury it is hard to do really well, but it is also easy enough to pass because students are constantly held accountable and professors are alert to any potential failures well before they happened. This translates into students being less likely to actually fail. At LSE, it comes down to the final—and this has its drawbacks—and professors do not necessarily keep track of students in the same way. The support network is there, but it needs to be activated by the student. Hopefully my LSE experience can make the transition to Middlebury's constant workload less challenging and will continue to influence how I process information. In the meantime, my enjoyment of general reading has increased and now I have some time to read some really interesting books on my list before senior year.

Happy summer!

— Tarsi Dunlop

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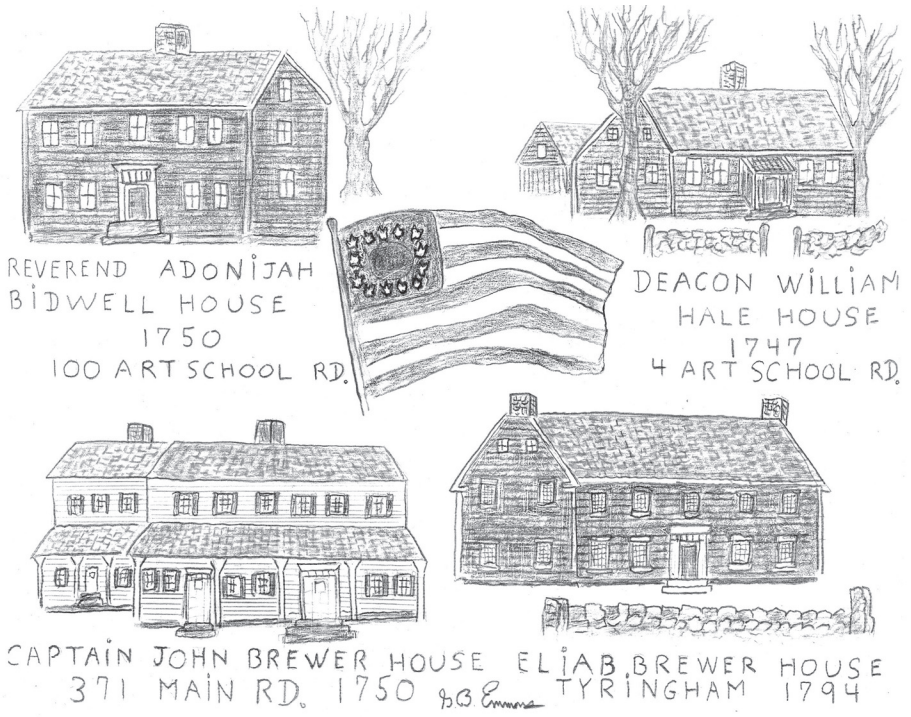
Colonial Houses (circa July 4, 1776)


REVEREND ADONIJAH BIDWELL HOUSE 1750 100 ART SCHOOL RD.
DEACON WILLIAM HALE HOUSE 1747 4 ART SCHOOL RD.
CAPTAIN JOHN BREWER HOUSE 371 MAIN RD. 1750
ELIAB BREWER HOUSE TYRINGHAM 1794

As we celebrate our nation's birthday, there are only three houses still standing in Monterey that were here on July 4, 1776, when the Congress of the thirteen colonies signed the Declaration of Independence. However, the hardworking farmers here knew that the actual fighting had begun when the farmers far away on the Concord Green "stood, and fired the shot heard round the world." The impending war had come closer to home the previous January when a military parade of Henry Knox's cannons passed virtually by their doorsteps on their way to ultimately liberating Boston from British occupation.

That these three houses have stood the test of 250 years of freezing winters and blistering hot summers is perhaps a tribute to the rustic craft of the sawmill that John Brewer had built by the present milldam. Their basic structures are still sound, from timber frame chestnut beams, rugged oak siding panels, wide pine floorboards, and white cedar shingles. However, the roofs have been replaced numerous times and original structures added on to over the years as more room was needed.

Just down Main Road from Brewer's landmark dwelling is a historical stone monument celebrating and positioning the approximate path of Knox's journey. Recent historic research at the Bidwell House has also uncovered the existence in a museum of a signed receipt from Knox to Brewer for spending the night in his house. But before putting up a sign similar to "George Washington slept here," there is strong local belief that Knox stayed in Brewer's previous house, called the Fort. All that remains is a cellar hole in the field between Rob Hoogs' house and the church parsonage, which is mentioned in Eloise Myers' Historical Society reference book entitled *A Hinterland Settlement*. She mentions that there were three houses that had been fortified, and one was Brewer's. At the time of her writing, remnants of the palisades surrounding the site were still visible.

We may never know everything we would like to about Henry Knox's connection to our local landscape and heritage, but topography must have played a major role in the location of routing such as the old Boston-Albany Post Road. A recent historical land appraisal at the Bidwell House has been able to place its exact path in an east-west direction across the lower Bidwell property, about half way between the first meetinghouse and the parsonage itself. The old roadbed lined with stone walls joins Art School Road at the present corner of Carrington Battelle and extends east to join Mt. Hunger.

Topography also was the main factor that led to the division of Township Number One into Monterey and Tyringham when the second church was situated even further over the hills from Tryingham and they built their own church. On July 12, Township Number One will, if only ceremoniously, be reunited at the Bidwell House fundraiser being held at the colonial Eliab Brewer House at 184 Tyringham Road. Eliab married Reverend Bidwell's daughter Theodosia, which adds to the historican significance of the occasion.

Come and join the festivities!

— George Emmons

ॐ

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Dispatches from the Trail

Here's another report from Jeramy Vallianos, who is through-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail this summer.

The days and hills keep rolling on by as we walk and wander these Southern California lands. We returned to the trail after the break in Berkeley to find snow in the San Gabriel Mountains. A foot had fallen above 7,000 feet and we sloshed through, climbing to the summit of 9,399-foot Mt. Baden Powell. Up into the clear alpine air and ancient old limber pines cragged and grown with the wind. Clouds rolling through us atop the peak, appearing and disappearing the mountains to the west.

We walked westward through the San Gabriels before dropping into the desert town of Agua Dulce. Incredible hospitality continued as we stayed with the legendary Saufleys at "Hiker Heaven" (www.hikerheaven.com), a couple who have been housing, cleaning, and resting Pacific Crest Trail hikers for over ten years. Their entire yard is set up as a camp with canvas tents, trailers, coolers, free boxes, fire pit, and a fleet of bicycles for trips to town. We stayed a night before walking through the heat to meet another set of legendary trail hosts, the Andersons, for an entirely different experience. We camped in the manzanita grove just beyond the tarped oil-wrestling pit for two days of beer drinking, frisbee golfing, taco salad-filled debauchery. Eventually made it out alive, and the contrasts continued as we set back out into the heat and brush wilderness. That day, while searching a dry stream for water I met White Buffalo and Marshall, who were out for five days for a rite of passage Inipi ceremony. Our paths had brought us together, and after speaking for a few minutes White Buffalo invited us to join them for a sweat lodge. With that we were preparing for the sweat, Serena, Mark, and I gathering pine and cedar branches for the lodge, building a stone fire pit and cutting kindling. The wind hurtling by, we carefully started a fire and began heating the stones. The sweat lasted well into the night, a beautiful experience to be a part of out on this walk.

The next day we dropped out of the oak forests atop Liebre Mountain and into the controversial route through the Mojave Desert and Antelope Valley. Cracking autos rusting in the fields, grass pushing through shattered computer monitors and sun-baked electronics on a stretch of trail that traverses private plots and yards and through the gnarled Joshua tree forests that line the cemented L.A. aqueduct. We spent the day in howling wind and flying sands crossing this valley where the trail skirts the edges of the expansive Tejon Ranch.

Stephen Rose

This 75 mile length of trail from Antelope Valley to the Tehachapi Mountains and the southern Sierras is mired in troubling land issues. Conservation easements are slim, and numerous signs warn walkers not to deviate from the trail tread under penalty of prosecution. These are some of the threatened spaces that we hope to help protect through our partnership with the Pacifc Crest Trail Association for the hike.

On we've walked through the long waterless stretches and the last of the desert country to reach the southern Sierra range. Steep scaping peaks, pinyon pine, old juniper, sage, hillsides of lupine returning health to burn sites, and eventually dropping into the valley of the South Fork Kern River. We find ourselves now in the settlement of Kennedy Meadows, forty to fifty off-the-grid residents, most more grizzled than the hikers, solar panels, generators, a general store, and this silver cyber trailer where I'm typing. A great place to spend some time before venturing out into the high country ... with cold rivers, snow, and towering old Mt. Whitney looming ahead.

— Peace, Jeramy

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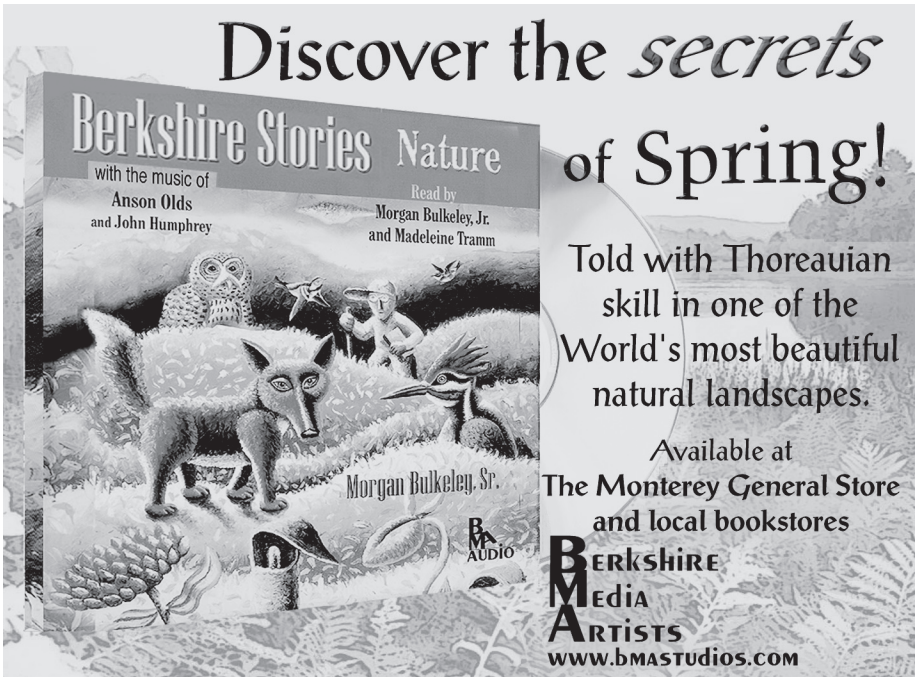
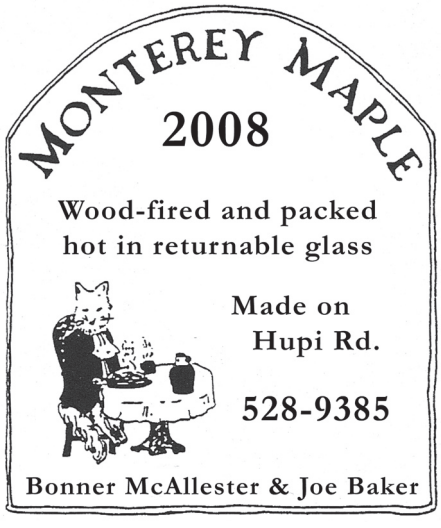




Colonial Gardens

Lately I've been thinking a lot about colonial gardens. We have such a rich architectural history in our region, and our beautiful old houses make me wonder what the original gardens were like. What were they used for, how were they designed, and how can we use those ideas in our own gardens? It turns out that all the colonial era gardens, from the rural farmstead to the big estate, contained special features that can enrich our own landscape designs.

The most common type of garden in rural Massachusetts, the farmstead garden, was dictated by necessity above all else. Although ships carrying supplies, food, and seed sailed back and forth across the Atlantic, the early settlers had to assume that they would have to plant whatever they needed. Certainly, as settlement moved west to our own area, self-sufficiency meant survival. So simplicity was the main element of rural garden design. A good representation of that simplicity exists in the vegetable garden plans from the Plimouth Plantation. The women were in charge of these gardens while the men tended to the livestock and haying. The garden beds were organized in neat blocks, as near to the house as possible. Usually there were raised beds, supported by wood, stones, shells, low-growing plants, or whatever was practical.

Garden beds that were used for the earliest crops usually had a southern exposure and a slope if possible, so that the soil would warm up and dry out quickly. Beds that were used for later crops could be located on flatter, wetter ground. Most historical plans show large areas for individual crops, but the actual planting was probably far more complicated. Farming women usually mixed crops in together, separating only the perennial varieties from the crops that needed reseeding every year. Flowers were rarely planted separately but occasionally the woman of the house might have a few fragrant flowers by her door. The flowering plants were usually the herbs that were used for medicinal and culinary purposes and not strictly for ornamentation.

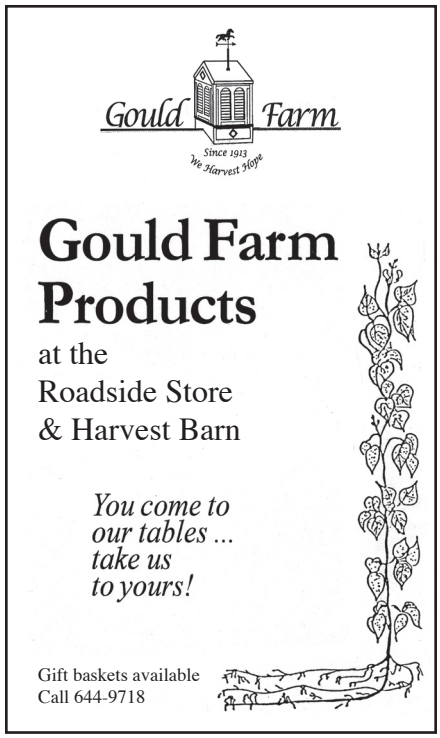
Property owners in towns tended to have more formal designs that included front gardens. Where farmstead gardens were pretty much arranged by necessity according to the topography of the land, town gardens of the colonial period were generally laid out along a central axis. The colonists would have brought these ideas with them from England. Even though England itself was about to go through the great naturalist landscape revolution, the colonists' ideas were more conservative. The geometric plans they favored were inspired by designs going back to medieval times.

The arrangement of two equal beds on either side of a front walk is such a common sight to us now that it is easy to forget it was a design choice at one time. Town properties were almost always enclosed by a fence. There were actually restrictions on the height of fences in various communities, and a typical arrangement was to have high fences on the sides and back and a lower and more open fence at the front.

The country manor garden demonstrated how geometric designs started to be mixed with the more naturalistic approach gaining favor in England during the eighteenth century. The central axis approach could easily be taken to a fairly absurd level, and there were undoubtedly many country homes that imposed this geometry on the rolling hills around them. Domestic land use functions were all contained within the garden walls. Remember that medieval design principles were still uppermost in the minds of many New Englanders.

So how can we take the principles and ideals of colonial gardens and bring them into our own time? I'm not going to get into colonial restoration per se—most of us do not have homes of historical significance even if they are colonial in design. But we often have a love for the characteristic sense of order and balance that many colonial gardens strove to achieve.

A front walk, bordered by garden beds on both sides, evokes the colonial spirit. If this design is not appropriate to the house,



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a small flowerbed near the front entrance will recall the rural farmstead's dooryard gardens. Matching trees planted on either side of the front entrance, known as "bride and groom trees," is another lovely way to bring home a colonial design.

The back garden can be separated into functional areas, or garden "rooms," to use a modern phrase. In colonial terms this would have meant an area for fruit trees, a place for the vegetable gardens, and maybe even areas set aside for recreation in the wealthy merchants' properties. The true colonial pattern would have included a path that continued the central axis of the front garden right through to the back. For our times, a design that roughly balances areas devoted to different outdoor uses would fit the colonial philosophy of outdoor space.

However you decide to use the designs from the colonial period, I am sure you will find your gardening experience enriched by knowing the history of their use.

Here's a good idea – how about visiting some of the gardens in Monterey for design ideas? The Bidwell House Museum, which is our very own 1750's colonial gem, is sponsoring a garden tour this August 9th. Who doesn't want to see what their friends and neighbors have been doing with their gardens lately? August 9th is our big chance to do just that. Six gardens will be on view, including the museum's, and if you like you can have lunch on the museum lawn. You can look for all the details in the *Monterey News* or call 528-6888 from Thursday to Monday, 11 a.m. to 4 pm. The whole day will be lots of fun.

— Ruth Green

Bidwell House Garden Party

The Bidwell House Trustees will sponsor a fundraiser, "A Midsummer's Eve Garden Party," on Saturday, July 12, from four to seven at the home of John and Virginia Demos, 184 Main Road, Tyringham.

John Demos is a renowned historian of early America and is known for his prize-winning books, *A Little Commonwealth* and *The Unredeemed Captive*. John and Virginia Demos are passionate about the colonial period of American history and fulfilled a lifetime dream of living surrounded by period furnishings in the Brewer House, a 1794 Georgian/Federal brick house. Signature hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, cookies, and lemonade will be served at this event for families and friends in a spectacular garden setting.

Because of their gracious invitation to friends of the Bidwell House, this is a unique opportunity to tour the house, recently featured in *Early American Life,* a magazine on early traditions, period styles, antiques, and architecture. The Brewer family arrived in Tyringham as early as 1737 and built the gristmill and sawmill on the Konkapot River behind the Monterey General Store in present-day Monterey.

Come and meet neighbors and friends in the hinterland community of Tyringham, which factors prominently in the Adonijah Bidwell story and in the earliest history of Monterey. Call the museum for reservations: 413-528-6888.

Storyteller John Porcino at Otis Gazebo

Acclaimed storyteller/musician John Porcino will present a special free family event at the Otis Town Hall gazebo on Saturday, July 26, at 10 a.m. For more than 25 years, John has been bringing audiences the gifts of laughter through story and song sparked to life with musical instruments from around the world and a playful touch. John's programs joyfully pay tribute to the little heroic moments of life. This program is sponsored by Otis Cultural Council. For information, call 413-269-0220.

Otis Cultural Council Tag Sale July 19

Empty your garage, closets and attics at the annual Otis Tag Sale, sponsored by the Otis Cultural Council, on Saturday, July 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Otis Ridge Ski parking lot (Rte. 23) (rain date Sunday, July 21). Bring a table, collectibles, furniture, and tag sale items and join your neighbors for a social and profitable day. For an application, call Arlene 269-0220, or pick up an application at the Otis Town Hall (Rte. 8), or download an application on our website, http://otisma.virtualtownhall.net. Send $10 check with application to Otis Cultural Council, PO Box 236, Otis, MA 01253.

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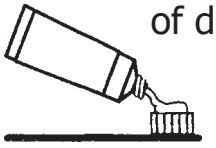

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Remembering Peggy Field

Peggy C. Field of River Road in Monterey died June 8, 2008, at her home.

Born on June 11, 1954, in Bristol, Connecticut, she was the daughter of the late James and Eloise Currier Carr. When Peggy was young she moved with her family to Sandisfield, where she attended local schools and graduated from Monument Mountain Regional High School.

Peggy had a passion for cooking. She opened her own diner, Peg's Place, in Sandisfield and after its closing she co-owned Daffer's B& B along with her husband, John. Most recently she worked at Great Barrington Rehabilitation and Nursing Center; prior to that she worked at Berkshire School in Sheffield.

Peggy was an avid reader. She loved to garden and do crossword puzzles, but most of all loved her family.

She is survived by her husband, John, of Monterey, her son, James Easton, of Greenwich, CT, and her daughter, Connie Walker of Breckenridge, CO, along with four stepchildren, John Field of Southfield, Sheri Loranger of Manchester, NH, Jennifer Field of Sandisfield, and Terri Field of Winsted, CT. She also leaves five brothers: Norman Carr of Grand Forks, ND, Michael Carr and Sean Carr, both of Sandisfield, Patrick Carr of Pittsfield, and Brian Carr of Columbus, OH; five sisters: Jamie Carr and Kathleen Dyer of Otis, Mary Cohutt of Westfield, Theresa Carr of Herber City, UT, and Shannon Bates of East Longmeadow,; as well eight grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother James Carr, who died in 2001.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to The American Cancer Society Relay for Life through Finnerty & Stevens, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances, memories and reflections may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support makes it possible for us to continue publishing.

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Richard & Martha Race
Lois Bull
Herbert J. Coyne
Stan & Gail Bulua
William Bell
Al & Myrna Schneiderman
Gerry Curtis
Dean Lombardo

Otis Collage Workshop

Cheryl Mirer, local painter and printmaker, invites all teenagers (12–19 years) to her FREE and introductory collage workshop at the Town Hall in Otis on Saturday, July 12, at 11 a.m. Assorted materials (paper, paint, images, and objects) will be used to create color, composition, imagery, and imagination in individual works of art and greeting cards. No artistic experience necessary. Materials provided. Call Cheryl to reserve, 269-7232. Sponsored by Otis Cultural Council.

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Calendar

Saturday, July 5:

Friends of Lake Garfield Meeting, Monterey Firehouse, 9:30 a.m.

Greg McAdams will use magic, comedy, and puppetry in a wild imaginary tour of the library for children, Monterey Library, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 12:

Annual second homeowners meeting with Select Board, Monterey Firehouse, 10:30 a.m.

Caravan Puppets will present "Timeless Tales," an interactive performance of classic world stories for children, Monterey Library, 10:30 a.m.

Bidwell House Fundraiser: A Midsummer's Eve Garden Party at Brewer House in Tyringham; 4–7 p.m. See p. 21.

Collage workshop for teenagers, taught by Cheryl Mirer, Otis Town Hall, 11 a.m. Free, materials provided, sponsored by Otis Cultural Council. Call Cheryl to reserve, 269-7232. See p. 22.

Berkshire musicians Bernice Lewis and Bobby Sweet, Sandisfield Arts Center, 9 p.m., $15. See p. 12.

Monday, July 14: Sisters in Crime: three mystery writers discuss how they write, Monterey Library, 7 p.m. Free, see p. 11.

Saturday, July 19:

Children of all ages are encouraged to "Howl at the Moon with a Wild Thing Tune" with singer/songwriter Tom Sieling, Monterey Library, 10:30 a.m.

David J. McLaughlin will talk about his books *Unfolding History of the Berkshires* and *Inside the Berkshires,* Bidwell House, 4 p.m. Wine and cheese reception to follow. See p. 9.

Otis Cultural Council Tag Sale, Otis Ridge Ski parking lot (Rte. 23), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See p. 21.

Tuesday, July 22: Red Cross Blood Drive, Town Hall, 1–6 p.m. See p. 5.

Saturday, July 26:

Annual Library Benefit Book Sale, Library lawn, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monterey Firemen's Steak Roast, 6 p.m., Firehouse Pavilion.

Storytelling and activities for young children, Monterey Library, 10:30 a.m.

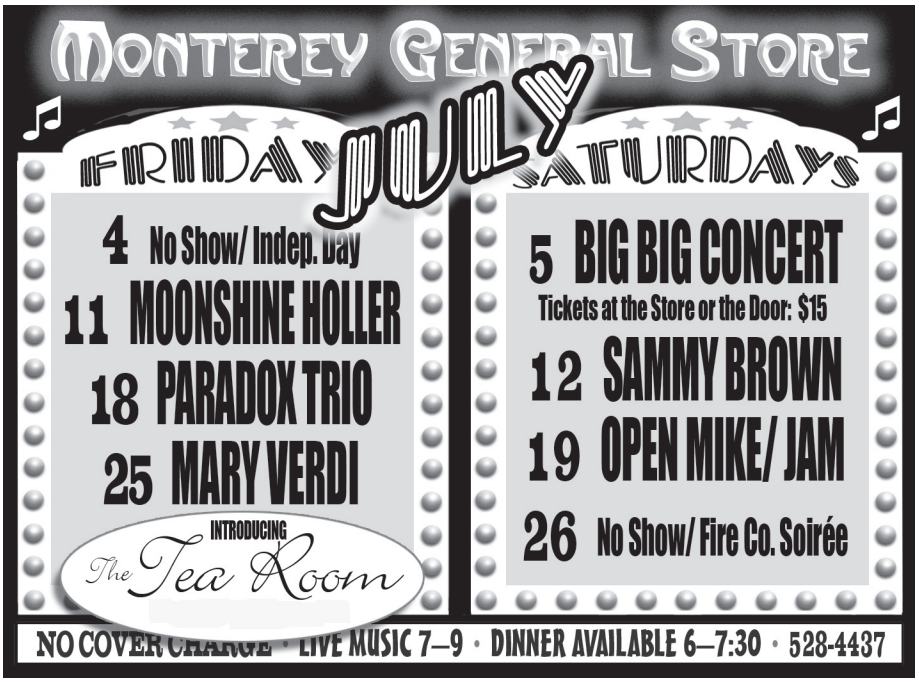
Storyteller/musician John Porcino will perform for families at Otis Town Hall Gazebo, 10 a.m. See p. 21.

Sunday, July 27: Copper Street Brass Quintet, Monterey Meetinghouse, 4:00 p.m. Free, sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 8.

The Observer
May 26–June 25, 2008

High temp. (6/10, 11))	90°
Low temp. (5/29)	35°
Avg. high temp.	74.3°
Avg. low temp.	50.7°
Avg. temp.	62.5°
Total rainfall	7.57 in.

Rainfall occurred on 19 days.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Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 22, George Emmons, p. 18;
Bonner McAllester, p. 14.

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Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10